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**From:** MB Hopkin [mhopkin@mindspring.com]  
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Arizona Corporations Commission reference: ACC Docket No. E-1057A-08-0328 -- on Monday, 17 Aug. 2009

TESTIMONY of Martha B. Hopkins, P.O. Box 41762, Tucson, AZ 85717

CONCLUSION: Independent feasibility study of all true costs necessary before proceeding.

Testimony:

In the 1950s, as a geologist with the U. S. Geological Survey, I dealt with mineral deposits, engineering geology, vulcanology and hot springs as a potential source of power for the San Francisco Bay Area..We were dealing with an emerging and less familiar source of energy, just as you now are dealing with the much large scale prospects of solar energy. Land use decisions, including construction and maintenance of transmission systems were guided then mainly by PG&E. There was little sound science to back up policy decisions and any studies done by the company were not public and not designed to undermine their objectives.

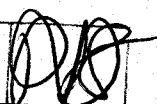
In the early and mid 1970s, as one of several advisors to the California State Legislature on geologic hazards and public. policy, we needed to devise new and comprehensive approaches because the data didn't exist.. Building homes on vacant land just because it was vacant and close to San Francisco was a disaster for those whose homes slid into the ocean or down a hill or over a road. The public and elected officials belatedly began to call for soil studies, because "the dirt" seemed to be the problem. It does you little good to understand every aspect of the soil science if you are building on an active landslide.

I live in Tucson but have spent a great deal of time in southern Arizona and grasslands elsewhere, especially the great Kaooo in Southern Africa..Spotty development and immense power transmission towers there have badly chopped up the ecologically significant savanna. A friends ranch was cut in half by towers and roads to maintain them, It's not just ugly, but sadly, as new power sources, construction methods and wireless technology emerged, the transmission systems soon proved obsolete. But the damage to the grasslands and animals is irreversible. There's a lesson for us here.

In the matter before you, you are also dealing with emerging technologies and potential unnecessary damage to rare and valuable habitats. The true and complete costs need to be determined in advance by thorough and independent, comprehensive study *before* proceeding the way we have always done it because that's the way we have always done it. Time for new thinking. Thank you.

Arizona Corporation Commission  
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